



For Immediate Release

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City of Fairfield economic development bill to governor's desk

Fairfield, California (Friday, September 9, 2016)—Legislation authored by Assemblymember Bill Dodd (D-Napa) and Assemblymember Jim Frazier (D-Oakley) to strengthen the economic development powers of local governments in Solano County and across the state passed the legislature with unanimous bipartisan support. Sponsored by the City of Fairfield, the bill enables cities and counties to create economic opportunities through the acquisition, sale, or lease of properties and to boost rehabilitation of commercial buildings by offering loans to owners or tenants.

“Ensuring the economic vitality of our local communities should be a top priority for our state, and I’m happy to work with Assemblymember Frazier to advance that cause,” said Assemblymember Dodd. “As a former county supervisor and business owner for over 25 years, I know that local businesses are essential to creating jobs and vibrant communities. This bill will help strengthen the economy in Solano County and communities around the state.”

Supported by the League of California Cities, AB 806 offers communities additional tools that can be used to rehabilitate deteriorated areas, attract and retain jobs, and improve local quality of life. In 2012, redevelopment agencies in California were eliminated as the state coped with massive budget deficits. Many of the tools previously used by redevelopment agencies were transferred to local governments to assist with economic development. With this authority, counties and cities are able to enter into agreements that can help create job opportunities and promote affordable housing projects. Dodd and Frazier’s legislation, Assembly Bill 806, will simplify the process by which local governments can assist with economic development.

“AB 806 clarifies that cities have the power to create and provide vital economic development opportunities in their communities,” said Fairfield Mayor Harry Price. “The City of Fairfield greatly appreciates Assemblymembers Dodd and Frazier for joint authoring the legislation and for their efforts to strengthen our local economy.”

The bill now heads to Governor Jerry Brown. The Governor has until September 30 to sign or veto the measure.

For more information about Fairfield’s use of this local legislation, contact Dawn La Bar, legislative analyst at the City of Fairfield at (707) 428-7749.

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